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* DCD PA Duty Officer NMCC (LDX)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Operations Center

(GUYANA WORKING GROUP)

Situation Report No. X

Situation in Guyana as of 0715 AM (EST), November 21, 1978

We are awaiting Embassy views on our suggestion that the victims of the Jonestown tragedy be buried at Jonestown, given the long time of the bodies in open air and the fact that we won't have significant helicopter lift capacity until Wednesday. Ambassador Burke is currently consulting with the Guyanese authorities on this situation. Meanwhile the airlift of helicopters and supplies into Georgetown begins this morning with the arrival of three aircraft carrying support equipment and two unassembled helicopters. Local burial will not significantly reduce the need for U.S. equipment and personnel needed to carry out search and rescue operations in cooperation with Guyanese authorities. Three HH-53 helicopters are scheduled to arrive in Georgetown tomorrow morning as well as four additional light helicopters.

Six FBI agents, Jim Ward (CA) and Fred Shaver (ICA) are scheduled to depart MacDill AFB at 11:55 A.M. today. The agents will join a legal attache from Caracas who arrived yesterday.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The Embassy is looking into the possibility that the Otter damaged in the ambush at Port Kaituma can be repaired if parts were to be flown in by our Military Task Force.

The Press pool which visited Jonestown yesterday has begun to file detailed stories. The pool was made up of Charles Krause and Frank Johnson of the Washington Post, Mohamed Hamaludin of Reuters/CANA and a Guyanese photographer.

John Bushnell, ARA
Guyana Working Group

T. Reynders,
Senior Watch Officer

CONFIDENTIAL DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____